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# The Gull

Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter  
Volume 78 • No.7 July-August 1996

## Chrissy Field Wetland in Jeopardy

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**T**he fate of a proposed wetland restoration project at Crissy Field, in the Presidio, will be determined at a Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) Advisory Commission Hearing on Wednesday, July 17, 1996 at Building 201 at Upper Fort Mason. Building 201 is the large white building located at the Bay Street entrance to Fort Mason (from Bay Street enter the gate just across from Franklin Street).

Please consider joining us at that meeting to help us show our strong support for the wetland restoration project. There is a small group of people who have opposed the wetland and we need to show the Advisory Commission that there is indeed strong public support for the wetland. Without your support at this meeting the wetland restoration project may die an early death.

Crissy Field, in San Francisco's Presidio, was historically the site of a large and unique wetland/lagoon system that provided a wonderful home to a myriad of land and waterbirds, not to mention fish and shellfish. As San Francisco was developed, these wetlands began to be filled in anticipation of development and eventually they were completely destroyed. That development never took place but the wetlands were gone.

The closing of the Presidio as an Army base has given its new owner, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (U.S. National Park Service), the opportunity to restore those lost wetlands. The wetland restoration concept received great support during the creation of the Park Service's Presidio Master Plan.

When that Master Plan was announced to the public, however, a small part of the

community vociferously opposed the idea of a wetlands restoration at Crissy Field. Who were these people and why did they oppose the wetland?

They were local residents who had gotten into the habit of walking their dogs without leashes on the Crissy Field beach. They objected to a wetland because they felt that it would result in their losing their dog walking privileges. Not willing to recognize that the Crissy Field was now a National Park and no longer a local neighborhood amenity, they strongly resisted any alterations. The Park Service met with them and promised them that they would continue to have dog walking areas, in fact an area larger than that they were presently using and still in the same neighborhood.

This evidently did not convince the dog-walkers and at a public meeting held last year these same people continued to oppose the concept of a wetland at Crissy Field.

The Crissy Field Wetland Restoration project is part of the Presidio Master Plan. The GGNRA Advisory Commission will be sympathetic towards this project but they need to know that there is strong public support for the wetland. Please join us on July 17 and say a few words in favor of this Crissy Field wetlands restoration. It's a rare chance to bring nature back to San Francisco and to provide us and our children with the opportunity to witness the tides and the seasons through a wetlands prism with its seasonal variations of migratory birds and fish.

A few minutes of your time will likely result in the creation of a new home for thousands of birds and other wildlife. See you there!

Arthur Feinstein

CALIFORNIA  
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# Back Yard Birder

Meg Pauletich

While my friend was feeding her grandson a bottle she spied some bird activity outside her window. Her home is surrounded by mature vegetation and is perched atop a hill so there is diversity of bird life. She had noted several nesting species: Acorn Woodpeckers in the oak tree, House Finches in a hanging basket of geraniums, and in the middle of a camellia bush visible from inside hung a beautiful Bushtit nest. Its gourd-shaped hanging pocket had been woven around and supported by the shrub's twigs. Moss, lichen, leaves and grass were held together with spider webs and lined with plant down, hair, and feathers. What a wonderful, comforting environment-- especially when compared with what some birds consider home. How about nesting hundreds of feet in the air, fighting for wing-room with aggressive heron siblings? Or, would you prefer being a Barn Owlet surrounded by 3 to 11 hissing brethren sitting atop a pile of rodent bones? Or, maybe you'd like to snuggle down on a gravel rooftop with your Killdeer sister or brother? The Bushtit's snug pendular nest is soft and warm as it rocks in the breeze, an infinitely more comfy space than the above-mentioned.

As Margaret watched the Bushtit nest, a Scrub Jay bombed into the scene, cocking its head with interest. No sooner had it landed than the Bushtits' excited cries drew assistance from the pair of House Finches and a passing Bewick's Wren. These tiny birds succeeded in driving the possible marauder away. Margaret was flabbergasted to see different species band together in a common effort to defend the Bushtits' nest.

"Mobbing" is the behavior Margaret had observed. We've all noticed one form of mobbing, that of a small bird diving on and attacking a hawk, vulture, or crow. The mobbing behavior Margaret had seen was more up-close and personal since it occurred during nesting season. This is common as birds defend their nesting areas from predators who might take their eggs or their fledglings. Altruism is not the motive here. Birds will band together

to assist in insuring safety for the larger number. If they band together all species will gain safety.

Obviously, a small bird attacking large one is no threat. The element of surprise is what gives these Lilliputians the edge over the Gullivers of the bird world. If the larger, stronger birds had immediately snatched up and eaten the pesky small birds years ago, mobbing activity would never have endured. However, it seems to be a learned behavior, something a young bird needs to know. This was tested by one of those patient people in a lab who taught a bird to perceive a multi-colored bottle as a threat. It, in turn, taught its young to do the same. Poor bird.

Studies show that this behavior occurs most frequently during nesting season when it is important to defend a territory while young and fledglings could appeal to other birds' appetites. It has been found that when birds are migrating, e.g., they will pass through an area without bothering predatory birds. After all, they are just visiting within the predator's neighborhood. While nesting, however, strangers with large appetites are suspect and must be driven away. Migratory robins were observed attacking a stuffed owl complete with "voice" (a recording), but no mobbing followed. Nesting robins wouldn't tolerate an owl in "their" neighborhood.

Should you hear a tremendous din of raucous jays, follow their sounds. You might find the reason for their anxiety: an owl, a hawk, maybe a stealthy neighborhood cat. As recipients of much mobbing, jays are also "major mobbers," worthy of their jobs as the alarm systems of the bird world.

**UPDATE: SUCCESS!!!!!!** A Western Bluebird pair has taken up residence in Dick's Bodega Bay bluebird box, The short 4' pole which is now leaning because of high winds doesn't matter -- the nearby branches of the Pride of Madeira provide a perch for the protective parents while the babies rock-a-bye. The parents love the cross-hatching Dick made below the nest hole -- its rough surface makes it easy to grip while feeding their young.

We are THRILLED to observe these beautiful birds so closely. You can be sure another bluebird house will be "curing" for next season. We'll do anything to encourage these beauties to multiply.

At home, our Chestnut-backed Chickadees raised 3 young and are teaching them where all the "fast food" comes from. The fledglings are so unafraid they nearly land on my head in their eagerness to get some suet. There is the occasional wait while the White-breasted Nuthatches and their young have a turn. What treats! My new back yard bird list is up to 50 since we moved here in September!!!!!!

## SNOWY PLOVER SUCCESSES

One morning in early May, Point Reyes Bird Observatory volunteer Jack Dineen, on his weekly hike out to the end of the Limantour spit, discovered a scrape in the sand. Small signs can provide great excitement - this was the first known Snowy Plover nesting attempt at Limantour in many years. Soon one egg appeared and then another and then came PRBO biologists Gary Page and Catherine Hickey and personnel from the National Seashore to erect a protective barrier around the nest.

Snowy Plovers, sand-colored beach denizens small enough to hide in a human foot-print, are particularly vulnerable to the increased human presence in our coastal areas. The few nests that do occur on the open beaches in spite of the disturbances are generally predated -- along Monterey Bay by Red Foxes, a non-native species, and at Pt. Reyes by Common Ravens, a native species whose numbers have increased greatly due, in part, to nearby ranching activity. In Monterey, heavy-duty wire "exclosures" around the nests to keep out the foxes have been very successful over the last four years. The exclosure at Limantour was the first attempt at PRNS to thwart the ravens. Two more have been built since then around nests on Pt. Reyes Beach.

In mid-June, half-way through the breeding season, the exclosures are working well - there are presently nine chicks, several about to fledge; two females have laid second clutches and the third is newly paired. It's reason to celebrate.

## GGAS BOARD ACTS TO STRENGTHEN CONSERVATION IN MEXICO

The GGAS Board of Directors recently decided to sponsor one scholarship for the 5-week *Curso de Ornitoloxia Tropical* (Tropical Ornithology Course), conducted by the Institute of Ecology in Xalapa, Mexico. The \$660 donation by GGAS will pay all tuition, materials, and lodging/meal expenses for a Latin American biologist attending the course, which runs from 24 June to 28 July 1996. Unlike the US, the Mexican government provides little or no funding for biologists to manage public lands or wildlife species, so most conservation efforts and habitat protection are accomplished by universities, private institutions, and grassroots organizations, many of which have little or no formal training in avian biology.

Although there are many highly competent biologists and conservationists in Mexico, there are few trained ornithologists. This course will focus graduate students' training on ornithology, and enhance the technical skills of professional biologists so that they can design and implement research, monitoring, and conservation programs that benefit birds. This is the first substantial ornithology course developed in Mexico by Mexican ornithologists. The goal is to conduct this course annually. The target audience is Mexicans and other Latin Americans in graduate programs and professionals in biologist/conservation positions that do not have the needed skills in avian biology. Training is most relevant and cost-effective if conducted in Mexico by Mexican professionals (in fact, the instructors are donating their time and are only being paid for travel). However, even this reasonable cost of \$660 per student is out of reach of many Latin American students and professionals.

In addition to the need, the Board evaluated other compelling conservation reasons for funding the scholarship. Over 100 species of North American migratory landbirds, which include about 75 of California's breeding species, winter in Mexico. Western warblers winter almost entirely in a narrow strip of Western Mexico from Sonora to Guatemala. In

Western Mexico, migrants (our North American breeding birds) comprise roughly 50% of the birds (both in terms of species and individual birds) during the winter. Most small migratory landbird species spend as much as 9 months on tropical wintering grounds. Individual birds generally return to the same winter location in successive years.

Mexico has incredible biodiversity, with 1,041 species of birds, 12% of the world's species, found there. Deforestation and other habitat loss threaten this biological diversity. Over 2 million acres of woodland, 1.6% of Mexico's forests, are deforested each year. Clearly, the local people must be empowered to solve problems and act fast. The GGAS Board concluded that supporting this grassroots education would have a positive impact on conservation efforts in Mexico, thereby protecting "our" birds, as well as the equally important resident tropical species.

The Chapter has already received a contribution of \$100 from a GGAS member to help support this program. If you also believe this is a worthy cause, you can earmark a donation to GGAS for the Tropical Ornithology Course scholarship.

## BIRDING TOUR TO PANAMA

**February 15 - March 2, 1997**

Come join us for our second birding trip to Panama. At the tropical junction between two continents, we can find a broad range of species in a number of habitats. We also look forward to an evening meeting with the Panama Audubon Society and dinner with members of Panama Audubon at the end of the second week.

The first week will focus on the central lowland rainforest around the Panama Canal and the mountainous western region where Quetzals are found and the mountains reach to 11,400 feet. We will stay in fine hotels in Panama City and the Western Highlands. Some of the noted birding areas we will explore near the Canal are the famous Pipeline Road in Soberanía National Park, the Metropolitan Nature Park and Panama Viejo mudflats. On the Caribbean side, we will bird the Achiote Road and the

areas near Ft. Lorenzo. Three full days will be devoted to the Western Highlands near the Costa Rica border, including La Amistad International Park, in search of the Resplendent Quetzal, Bare-necked Umbrellabird and the many species of colorful tanagers, hummingbirds, parrots, macaws, aracaris and warblers of the region.

The second week will be a quite different birding experience. We will spend five days in the remote province of Darien, in the eastern part of Panama closer to Colombia. An air taxi charter will take us to the Lodge at Cana, situated at about 1,800 feet on the lower slopes of Cerro Pirre. The lodging here will be more rustic than in Panama City or the Western Highlands, and the birds very different. We will hike to Cerro Pirre the next day, some three miles and 2,500 feet above and beyond the Lodge and into the cloud forest. We will tent at Cerro Pirre for two nights, then return to the Lodge for two more nights. The Cerro Pirre is known for endemic species and the Cana area for the variety of birds of the foothills.

Our bird guide for both weeks will be Mr. Hernan Arauz of Panama. If the group is large enough we will add a second Panamanian guide. Our U.S. coordinator is Miles Mc Key, and arrangements are being handled by Eco-Tours de Panama S.A. and Top Guides. The group is limited to 14, plus guides and staff. This trip is not designed for listers; we hope to enjoy the birds we encounter in diverse tropical habitats, rather than targeting particular species.

The costs (double occupancy), including the flights within Panama but not including international airfare, are \$1,898 per person for Week One and \$1,710 for Week Two. The cost includes a donation to Golden Gate Audubon of \$100 for each week of the trip, to support our work with Panama Audubon Society. We can secure your space with a \$300 deposit, made payable to and mailed to Top Guides, 1825 San Lorenzo Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707.

Please call Top Guides, 800-867-6777, or email top4adven@aol.com, for more information or a detailed itinerary.

*Steven Margolin*

# Observations: May - June 6, 1996

Hugh Cotter

Observation highlights this month have been pretty scarce and while there have been some good birds reported and with out of range "interior" species more numerous than usual it certainly has also been one of the quietest spring "vagrant" passages in a few years.

## LOONS TO TERNS

A good start to this month's column is a report of **Yellow-billed Loon** found at the end of April on the Albion River, MEN, present at least through May 25 (JW, LT). Highlights from a pelagic trip out of Noyo, MEN, on May 5 (JW), included 4 Laysan Albatross, while 5 birds of this species were reported on Monterey Bay on May 18, (DLSh), in addition to 80 Black-footed Albatross. That same pelagic out of Noyo also recorded 35 Fork-tailed, 6 Leach's and 8 Ashy Storm-Petrels during the trip. Shearwater highlights this month included up to 2 and possibly even 4 **Manx Shearwaters** seen off the Cliff House, San Francisco, on May 4, (ASH), the first county sightings. Another bird was seen from Pigeon Point, SM, May 11, (RSTh). This species continues to be increasingly sighted in California since the first reports in 1993.

Little Blue Herons returned this year to their regular haunt at Alviso, SCL, with 2 birds present on May 18 (AE). Lingering duck species of note include 2 Harlequin Duck at Fort Bragg, MEN, on May 7 (DT), while up to 5 Oldsquaw were present at Brooks Island, CC, during the month (SG).

Reports of Pacific Golden-Plover included 2 birds at the Spaletta Ranch, Point Reyes, MRN, on May 6 (RS), and 2 at the Woodland Trestle Ponds in Yolo County on May 24. Huge numbers of phalaropes again were reported from various coastal locations at the beginning of the month, with a count of 30,000 birds from Pigeon Point on May 1 (BM) believed to be mostly Red Phalaropes.

A Curlew Sandpiper, found at the Crittenden Marsh, SCL, on May 1 (SR),

started the month with a good deal of excitement; the bird remained there at least through May 4. Incredibly another, in alternate plumage, was subsequently found at the Woodland Trestle Ponds on May 5 (TEa), but was not seen on the following day. This species is an exceedingly rare spring vagrant in our region and two during the period is unprecedented.

Other interesting sandpipers included Solitary Sandpiper at Olema, MRN, with a single bird present on May 1, and 3 birds on the following day at the "New" Olema wetland (RS); Baird's Sandpiper reports included 2 birds in Novato, MRN, on April 30 (KB), and single birds at the Woodland Trestle Ponds, May 7 and 10, (TEa, SSA). Also, 2 Pectoral Sandpipers were seen at farm ponds adjacent to the Petaluma-Valley Ford Road, MRN, on May 2 (RS, DN).

A Laughing Gull was present at the Humboldt NWR, HUM, from May 30 through June 2 (PS, DFx), one of the few records for that county. An alternate-plumaged Franklin's Gull was at Pescadero Beach, SM, on May 12 (GF), while an Arctic Tern at the Hayward Regional Shoreline, ALA, originally found on June 1 (KHi), was apparently attempting to nest. It remains there as of this writing. Reports of Black Tern included up to 40 at the Woodland Trestle Ponds, YOL, on May 1 (EG) and 2 birds at the Coyote Creek Riparian area, SCL, on May 12 (SR). Black Skimmer returned to the Hayward Regional Shoreline, ALA, and were present throughout the period (NL).

## KINGBIRDS TO GOLDFINCHES

Two Cassin's Kingbirds at Piper Slough, CC, on May 3 were the first in the county since 1968 (SG). A Tropical Kingbird, seen at PRNS on May 12 (RS), was unusual as this species is very rare in Spring. It was a good period for Gray Flycatcher, with birds reported from Piper Slough, CC, on May 4 (BW); Caswell Memorial State Park, SJ, on May 22 (SG); and another at Mount Diablo, CC, on May

24 (GF). A Gray Jay which has been present throughout the winter at the Gualala Regional Park, SON, remained at least through May 30 (MP).

One of our region's rarer vagrants at any time of the year, and especially so in spring, is a **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, which was seen at the Lighthouse at Point Reyes NS, MRN, on June 2 (RS, DDeS, LL, CL, AD) -- a good look, although much too brief for the observers' satisfaction. A Phainopepla at Point Reyes Station on May 7, (RS), was only the third county record for this species in Marin. Another good spring record was a **Yellow-throated Vireo** found at the Nunes Ranch on May 27 (CL, LL, AD). Interestingly, this species, seldom found elsewhere in California, has showed up on outer Point Reyes in each of the last 6 springs at just about this same time. A Red-eyed Vireo was at Butano Creek, SM, on June 1 (MF). It certainly has not been one of the better spring passages for vagrant warblers this year, with only 10 birds of 5 species of note reported. Of these 3 were reports of single Black-and-White Warblers: in San Francisco, Humboldt and San Mateo counties (DSg, ES, RSTh); Hooded Warbler in Golden Gate Park, SF, on May 26 (DSg), and at Rancho San Antonio, SCL, on May 29, (JD); and Chestnut-sided Warblers at Pescadero Creek, SM, on May 27 (RSTh) and 2-3 birds on Point Reyes on June 2, with a Tennessee Warbler there the same day (RS, AD, CL, LL). The only American Redstart reported was one at Fort Mason, SF, on June 2 (MM).

Singing male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found at Tennessee Valley, MRN, on May 17, (MS); at Bodega Bay, SON, on May 23 (DN); and at Annadel State Park, SON, on May 30 (DS).

Good numbers of sparrows were reported during the period again, with species such as Sage, Black-chinned, Rufous-crowned and Grasshopper sparrow reports coming from many counties. A Clay-colored Sparrow at Lake

Merced, SF, from May 12-15, (ASH), was a good city record for the spring, while a Brewers Sparrow was found singing at the Fish Docks, Point Reyes NS, on June 2 (JM). A female Bobolink was present at the Bolinas Sewer Ponds, MRN, on June 1 (RS).

It was also a good period for Great-tailed Grackle reports, with birds recorded in San Francisco, San Joaquin, Mendocino, and Lassen counties. A female Summer Tanager was at Piper Slough, CC, on May 14 (SG), the only one reported this spring. It has been an exceptional spring for what are normally rare coastal reports of Lawrence's Goldfinch, with groups of birds in San Mateo (up to 16 in one group recorded); a single bird in San Francisco at Sutro Heights Park, May 28 (BB); and a pair, which are believed to be nesting, at Point Reyes NS, MRN, late in the month, (LH, GF).

The monthly observation column is generated from reports made to the Northern California Bird Box or to the author. Some sightings are unconfirmed and numbers of birds are often best regarded as estimates or "best guesses". In general, birds in boldface are very rare in our region, geographically or seasonally. Many of these are currently reviewed by the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC). Observers are encouraged to provide written and/or photographic documentation to the CBRC, c/o Michael Patten, P.O. Box 51959, Riverside, CA 92517-2959 for any species currently on the review list. A list of review species can also be obtained from the CBRC secretary at the address above.

This data is made possible by all the observers who contributed their reports to the Northern California Bird Box.

**Abbreviations for Observers:** BB, Bob Behrstock; KB, Ken Burton; JD, Jim Danzenbaker; DDeS, Dave DeSante; AD, Ann Dewart; TEa, Todd Easterla; AE, Al Eisner; MF, Mike Feighner; GF, George Finger; DFx, David Fix; SG, Steve Glover; KHi, Kevin Hintsa; ASH, Alan Hopkins; LH, Lisa Hug; NL, Nick Lethaby; CL, Cindy Lieurance; LL, Leslie Lieurancee; MM, Mac McCormick; BM, Bert McKee; JM, Joseph Morlan; DN, Dan Nelson; MP, Mike Parmeter; SR, Steve Rottenborn; PS, Pete Schmidt; DS, Doug Shaw; DLSh, Debra Shearwater; DSg, Dan Singer; MS, Mike Small; RS, Rich Stallcup; LT, Lewis Tucker; DT, Dorothy Tobkin; BW, Bud Widdowson; JW, Jerry White

Abbreviations for counties; ALA, Alameda; CC, Contra Costa; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MTY, Monterey; SF, San Francisco; SJ, San Joaquin; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; SON, Sonoma; YOL, Yolo.

## PANAMA COMMITTEE

Please take time to read the letter from Norita Scott Pezet, President of Panama Audubon Society, on the back page of this issue. She responds to the issues talked about in the March, 1996, issue of *The Gull*, and gives us an update on the changing role of the Panama Audubon Society.

Please note: there is a crying need for binoculars in Panama, not just for students and bird-watchers, but for biologists and naturalists who play such a pivotal role in habitat preservation. Won't you please consider donating that spare pair that you never use or making a financial contribution that can be used toward the purchase of new optics. We have someone who's volunteered to do maintenance and repairs, so less-than-perfect condition should not be a problem.

Next meeting of the Panama Committee will be Monday, July 15, 7:30 p.m. at 76 Hillcrest, Berkeley. Call Miles McKey at (510) 652-5854 for directions.

## S. F. NATURAL HISTORY TALKS

The Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way, site of GGAS's San Francisco meetings, sponsors a series of free Thursday night lectures on various topics of natural interest. Programs begin promptly at 7:30 p.m.

**July 25 White Sharks of the Farallones**  
Peter Pyle has amazing video footage of *Charcarodon charcarius*, the jagged-toothed one. A biologist with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Peter has been doing research on the Farallones for 15 years. His work was featured in a National Geographic TV Special in January.

**August 22 Ice Age Inhabitants of SF with Peter Rodda**, curator at the Calif. Acad. of Sciences. Find out who was performing at the "Hungry I" 25,000 years ago. Dr. Rodda, geologist and paleontologist, has been at Cal Academy for 24 years. Follow-up field trip to Corona Heights on August 24.

## MONTEREY BAY PELAGIC TRIPS

**Saturday, August 31**

**Sunday, October 6**

Golden Gate Audubon and Shearwater Journeys team up to offer GGAS members two pelagic trips out of Monterey. With the success of last year's trip, we have decided to add an earlier August trip. Like land birds, seabirds come and go with the seasons. August 31 is a good time to look for Long-tailed Jaegers, Black-footed Albatross, Arctic Tern, whales and rarities from the south. October 6 we will watch for Short-tailed Shearwater, Northern Fulmar and Ashy, Black, Least, and Wilson's Storm-Petrels. No matter what the season, there is no more thrilling birding than a day on the Bay.

The special reduced rate for GGAS members only is \$50 (non-refundable) for each trip.

To register, send a check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Shearwater Journeys  
P.O. Box 190  
Hollister, CA 95024

For more information, please call only Alan Hopkins at (415) 664-0983.

## BELIZE AND TIKAL WITH MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

**Feb. 5-19, 1997**

A trip to Belize and Tikal is the next journey to benefit Mono Lake. Journey aboard the 30-passenger motor sailing yacht, *Rembrandt van Rijn*, along Belize's barrier reef, stopping to visit wildlife sanctuaries and reserves, both land-based and marine, where Belize's special birds and fish can be viewed in their natural habitats. Visits to villages and Mayan ruins will add to the interest. Trip leader will be Dr. James McIver, avid diver, birder, and ecology researcher. He will be assisted by local guides.

For complete information about this fascinating adventure to nature reserves and marine parks and archeological wonders of the Mayan world, call or write to Mildred Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley 94708, (510) 526-1260. Space is limited and time is short!

## GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

### for GGAS

Anonymous, Eunice Andersen, Richard Bachenheimer, Karen Benzell, Walter and Nancy Berger, Berkeley Historical Society, George and Virginia Bing, Philip and Marjorie Bush, Ken Cardwell, Michael and Rita Carey, Kathryn and James Carroll, Myra and Bruce Cobblewick, Lewis Cooper, Marion Craig, Afton Crooks, Janette and John Dang, Edwin and Ira Dankworth, Kenneth Davids, Ruth Dement, Elizabeth and Paul Eisenhardt, Caroline Erickson, Elizabeth Faxon, Mark Fendorf, Brenda and Kevin Fitzpatrick, Joel and Myriam Fontaine, Diana Fulton, GAP Foundation, Maurice and Virginia Gerritsen, Wilma and Albert Ghiorso, Arlene Giordano, George and Amy Gorman, Margaret Graupner, Page and Gerald Griffin, Betty and Kermit Gruberg, Paul and Mary Grunland, Kristi and Arthur Haigh, Virgininia Havens, Totton and Joanne Heffelfinger, Donald Heyneman, Mae and Jack Hoag, Robert Hodas, Janet Homrighausen, Audrey and Jerry Jedlicka, Robert Isaacson, Catherine Johnston, Yoko Jung, Joan Keller, C. Kim, Phyllis Kincaid, Harold Kirker, Joan Kresich and Robert Newhall, S. R. Krival, P. A. Lafka, Louise LaBrash, Michael and Jane Larkin, Caroline and Robert Lichtenstein, John Lambert, Anne Macpherson, Emily and L. E. Mannion, Lester Manson, Julia and Dean Mayberry, Sylvia McLaughlin, Barbara and Robert Mendle, James and Sally Osman, Ingrid Parker, Thomas Patterson, George Peyton, Mauricia Price, Sylvia and George Rader, Bette Roberts-Collins, Helen Sam and Harrietta Mahle, Carolyn Sanders, James Sanders, Ernest and Patricia Saunders, Joyce and James Schnobrich, Leonard Schwab and Rita Brenner, Earl and Virginia Simburg, E. and Jewel Singleton, Mary Sitton, Sheila Sondik, Miriam Spongberg, Naomi and Gunnar Sveningsen, Sally and Russell Symon, Madeline Tank and Helen Trimborn, Alyce Tarcher, Judith Taylor, Mary Ann Thompson, Patricia Triggs, Mary Turner, Janice and Thomas Vargo, I. Von Der Hude, Lucile Way, Cecile and Harold Weaver, Carolyn West, Paul Williams, Sara Wood, Ida Yonge

### for the Bird Box

Robert Roadcap

### for Audubon Adventures

U.C. Faculty Birding Section

### for Wetlands Protection

Berkeley Garden Club

### in honor of Benson Lee

Eugene Lee

### in memory of Peter Forrette

Patrick McSweeney

in memory of William Ephraim  
Marianne Strauss

### for Birdathon

Gloria and Vernon Alexander, Donald and Ann Arndt, Patricia Borga, William Chace and Ann McDonald, Edward Chansky, Ellen Connolly, Sarah Connolly, Mercedes Daggett, John and Carol Hatfield, Anne and Cambell Jones, Nathan Kaufman and Lynn Franco, Sondra Kennedy and Bruce Harris, Winton and Margaret McKibben, Paula Manaly, Annette and Robert Pennell, Richard Porter, William Pezick, Richard Shapiro, Jan and Renate Smith

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor, or if unspecified, at the discretion of GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in The Gull as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

## WANTED: DESK-TOP PUBLISHER

*The Gull* has a new editor, John Gibbons, a free-lance journalist whose experience includes environmental and investigative reporting. John will take over with the next issue of *The Gull* and we're very excited about his enthusiasm and ideas.

### -however-

We very much need a volunteer who has desk-top publishing experience to do the layout each month. Exact logistics, of course, will have to be worked out with the editor, but all copy will be available on disk and the finished product will go to the printer on disk. Presently, layout is being done on Pagemaker, but there are a number of other comparable programs available. Please call the office if interested.

## PLANTING FOR HUMMINGBIRDS

Hummingbirds are common year-round in the San Francisco Bay Area, and they can be attracted to most gardens with the addition of "hummingbird plants." Hummingbirds feed on both nectar gathered from flowers, and small insects. A hummingbird's long tongue and thin bill are adapted to gather nectar from plants with tubular flowers. Like a bee, hummingbirds cross-pollinate plants as they fly from flower to flower gathering nectar. The metabolic rate of hummingbirds is so high that they must continually feed through the day to maintain their body temperature of over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

For a successful hummingbird garden, grow a variety of plants that will give hummingbirds a nectar source throughout the seasons. Hummingbirds are very territorial; plant nectar sources throughout the garden so that one bird cannot dominate the food source. Observe the birds: because there are many plant sub-species, notice which plants are preferred and plant them in greater abundance.

### A Selection of Plants for Hummingbirds

Abutilon	Flowering Maple
Alcea rosea	Hollyhock
Aloe	

Aquilegia	Columbine
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry tree
Arctostaphylos	Manzanita
Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly Weed
Buddleia	Butterfly Bush
Callistemon	Bottlebrush
Castilleja	Paint Brush
Ceanothus	Wild Lilac
Clarkia	
Cleome hasslerana	Spider Flower
Crocosmia crocosmiiflora	Montberetia
Delphinium	Larkspur
Digitalis	Foxglove
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon
Heuchera	Coral Bells
Ipomopsis aggregata	
Kniphofia uvaria	Red-hot Poker
Lavandula	Lavender
Leonotis leonostis	Lion's Tails
Lilium columbianum	Columbia Lily
Lobelia laxiflora	
Lonicera	Honeysuckle
Lupinus	Lupine
Mahonia	
Mimulus	Monkey Flower
Monarda	Bee Balm
Nicotiana Giauca	Tree Tobacco
Penstemon	
Ribes sanguineum	Flowering Currant
Salvia	Sage
Veronica	Speedwell
Zauschneria California	Fuchsia

# Field Trips Calendar

Saturday, July 20

## Golden Gate Park (east end)

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Dahlia Garden located 100 feet east of the Conservatory building. During this morning walk we will concentrate on the live-oak habitat looking for summer residents. Lunch is optional for who wish to stay. Beginners welcome. Leader: Mike Healy (415) 664-3654 (h) or (415) 495-6320 (w)

Saturday-Sunday, July 27-28

## Yosemite Alpine Ecology Hiking Trip.

While the snow pack is not as heavy this year as last, the specific destinations of our daily hikes in the Yosemite area will not be determined until shortly before the time of our trip. Wherever we finally go, the scenery should be beautiful, and hopefully, there will be plenty of wildflowers and some interesting birds.

Since this trip is a popular one, participation will be by **reservation only**, and the numbers will be strictly limited. If you are interested, please call George Peyton (leader) as soon as possible.

As usual, this is not primarily a birding trip, but will emphasize general Alpine ecology. All participants should be in good physical condition, with reasonable experience in hiking and climbing at elevations of 8,000 to 11,000 feet, which is where we will be. Each day you should bring lunch, ample liquids, hat, water-repellent jacket, sun lotion, mosquito repellent, and good walking shoes or boots with treaded soles. (Please not smooth-soled tennis or similar shoes.) We will possibly be traversing some snow fields.

County and Forest Service Campgrounds are located off Hwy. 120 between Tioga Pass and Lee Vining (4 to 6 miles west of Hwy. 395), as well at Tuolumne Meadows Campground in Yosemite. Motels in Lee Vining include Best Western Lakeview Lodge (619) 647-6543, Gateway Motel (619) 647-6467, and Murphey's Motel (619) 647-6316. For trip reservations and meeting details call George Peyton, (510) 444-3131 weekdays. \$ (\*)

Thursday-Sunday, August 22-25

## Backpacking Trip in Lassen Volcanic National Park

Leaders: David Rice and Robin Pulich.

We will backpack in three miles to Snag Lake and spend three nights in primitive camping by a stream near a large meadow. We should see a flock of mixed warblers and other songbirds that summer in Lassen, plus resident birds of the mountains, Bald Eagles, and perhaps some migrating shorebirds. We will be above 6,000 ft. elevation in beautiful country!

To avoid impact in fragile habitat this trip is limited to twelve people. Everyone will be responsible for his/her own gear and food, although some shared meals of favorite menus may be arranged.

~~CANCELED~~

Monday, September 2 (Labor Day)

## Coastal San Francisco - Early Fall Birds

We'll bird the western edge of San Francisco from Sutro Baths to Lake Merced. Labor Day walks in recent years have yielded a variety of shorebirds (Wandering Tattler, Black Turnstone, Willet, Marbled Godwit), some early fall warblers, Sooty Shearwaters, Cooper's Hawk, and kinglets. Most summer breeders (usually including Hooded Orioles) can be seen. In observance of Labor Day, we'll avoid working too hard for the birds - we'll expect them to come to us.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot on Merrie Way (a stub street off the north end of Great Highway) above the Cliff House. We'll finish at noon. Beginners welcome. Leader: Harry Fuller (415) 668-8229 (\*)

Wednesday, September 11

## Mini-trip to Alameda South Shore and surrounding areas

Meet at 9 a.m. in Alameda at Broadway and Shoreline Dr. We will be looking for shorebirds and waterfowl. Bring lunch and a scope if you have one. Leader: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Saturday, September 14

## Coastal San Francisco

Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot between South and Middle Lakes (Chain of Lakes) near the 41st Ave. and Lincoln Way entrance to Golden Gate Park. We will bird in the park, Lake Merced, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in search of warblers, flycatchers, and vagrants. Bring your lunch and be prepared for cold weather near the coast. Leader: Dan Murphy, (415) 564-0074 (\*)

**Carpooling** arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (\*). See below.

**Problems:** If you need a rider or can take a passenger, or if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Russ Wilson, Field Trips Committee Chair, (510) 524-2399.



**Ms. Janice Andersen, President  
Golden Gate Audubon Society  
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G  
Berkely, California 94702**

**Dear Ms. Andersen:**

The Panama Audubon Society is most pleased and impressed with the March 1996 edition of The Gull, which had several articles dedicated to Panama and the Panama Audubon Society. In reference to this publication:

Dan Evans correctly addresses the problem of conservation of the forests along the Panama Canal. In addition other forest habitat throughout the country is severely threatened by powerful mining interests:

The Panama Committee has done an excellent job establishing a relationship between GGAS and the PAS. Covering all the costs to bring down Dan Evans gave the 1995 Festival prestige and added to the excitement of the event. Donations of binoculars are much appreciated and needed. We have donated binoculars to some eight groups around the country and need many more binoculars. Additionally, PAS has proposed to hold several workshops to train park rangers and some twenty binocoulars are needed just for this purpose:

In the educational arena, we could develop an environmental programme and supply Spanish materials to interested schools. We have employed a full time biologist for the IBA project, and although she is mostly dedicated to IBA, she can work in other projects such as these.

I am not sure you know that we were awarded funds to conduct Panama's Important Bird Area study. As such, Panama is the first country in Latin American to begin this study. This has generated a new professional relationship with the government agency that works to conserve the natural resources of the country (INRENARE) and with the School of Biology of the University of Panama. Panama Audubon is the BirdLife International partner-designate for this country.

Whilst Panama Audubon is changing from strictly being a birdwatching club to becoming an important conservation organization in Panama with an emphasis on birds, at this time, which is a very important time in history, we have organizational resources at our disposal that only allow us to make a limited impact.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each member of the Panama Committee, many of whom I have had the pleasure of meeting personally, for the excellent support given to Panama Audubon. Your visits in November of 95 and early in 1997, contribute to solidifying the relationship between the Northamerican amigo and its Latino counterpart, that should continue for many more years..

Sincerely yours,

Marta Scott-Post

Norita Scott-Pezet, President



Sociedad Audubon de Panamá  
Panama Audubon Society

## ROSTER

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

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